

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections of the application are respectfully requested in view of the amendments and remarks herewith, which place the application into condition for allowance. The present amendment is being made to facilitate prosecution of the application.

I. STATUS OF THE CLAIMS AND FORMAL MATTERS

Claims 1, 3, 5, 11, 22, 24, 26, and 32 are pending. Claims 11 and 32 are amended. Claims 2, 4, 6, 8, 10, 12-21, 23, 25, 27, 29, 31 and 33-42 were previously canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter. Claims 7, 9, 28 and 30 are hereby canceled without prejudice or disclaimer of subject matter.

No new matter has been introduced. Changes to the claims are not made for the purpose of patentability within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §101, §102, §103, or §112. Rather, these changes are made simply for clarification and to round out the scope of protection to which Applicants are entitled.

II. RESPONSE TO REJECTIONS

Claim 1 is substantially similar to claim 7; claim 3 is substantially similar to claim 9. Claim 22 is substantially similar to claim 28; claim 24 is substantially similar to claim 30. Claim 11 has been amended to depend from claim 3 and claim 32 has been amended to depend from claim 24. Claims 7, 9, 28 and 30 have been cancelled. Applicants submit that this response places the application into condition for allowance.

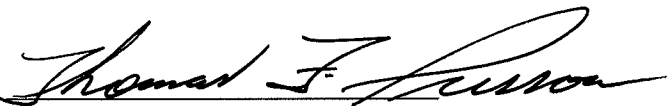
CONCLUSION

Please charge any additional fees that may be needed, and credit any overpayment, to our Deposit Account No. 50-0320.

Applicants respectfully submit that all of the claims are in condition for allowance and request early passage to issue of the present application.

Respectfully submitted,

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